



Christine Anderson-Cook: An outstanding New Mexico woman

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LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico, April 14, 2011—The New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women selected Los Alamos National Laboratory research statistician Christine Anderson-Cook as one of 20 women to receive the 26th Annual Governor's Award for Outstanding New Mexico Women. An awards banquet is scheduled for May 6 at the Hotel Albuquerque in Albuquerque.

"We are extremely proud of Christine's accomplishments, both as an outstanding research statistician and as an excellent role model for women in science," said Computer, Computational & Statistical Sciences Division Leader Stephen Lee. "It is through excellence in science and the careful mentorship of new scientists by folks like Christine that Los Alamos will pave the way for future advances in important areas for our nation."

"It is indeed a great honor to be in the company of such fine women who have made such a diverse set of contributions to our state," Anderson-Cook said. She was recognized for her technical leadership in statistics, extensive professional service at the national level, and mentorship of nearly 70 students.

Anderson-Cook joined the Laboratory in 2004 after serving as a faculty member in the Department of Statistics at Virginia Tech. Her nomination reads, "In the historically male-dominated field of statistics, Christine began her career as the only female faculty member in her first two positions at university statistics departments. Her first department head challenged her to think of herself as a pioneer and to help pave the way for other women to have an easier time starting their careers. Christine took this challenge to heart by excelling in the statistics profession and by making mentoring a strong emphasis throughout her career. Christine is one of the world's leading experts on statistical methods for quality improvement applied to industry and technology."

Anderson-Cook said that she feels fortunate to work in the Statistical Sciences group at the Laboratory, where excellent opportunities to work, collaborate, and mentor abound.

"I have been extremely fortunate to have some excellent mentors who have helped me to expand my vision," she said. "In particular, I would like to recognize Sallie Keller and Alyson Wilson, both of Statistical Sciences, for helping me to grow professionally."

Anderson-Cook's research interests include design of experiments, response surface methodology, reliability, multicriterion optimization, and statistical engineering. She currently is leading the Complex System Health Assessment project in the Department of Defense and Department of Energy Joint Munitions Program. "The goal of the project is to develop statistical methods and tools to better estimate the reliability of complex systems using different types of data," she explained.

The statistician, who grew up in Ontario, Canada, holds a master's degree in statistics from the University of Toronto and a doctorate in statistics from the University of Waterloo, Toronto.

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